

2 NINETY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
3 FIRST SESSION  
4 LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 122

5 Introduced by Foley, 29

6 PURPOSE: On February 6, 2001, the Governor signed LB 36 into law.  
7 The law eliminates the duty of school bus inspections by the  
8 Nebraska State Patrol. The statement of intent for this  
9 legislation noted that, "The State Patrol Task Force found that  
10 this is a duplication of quarterly inspections by trained mechanics  
11 for each school district required by the Nebraska Department of  
12 Education".

13 As a result of a careful investigation of the Nebraska  
14 State Patrol school bus inspection reports filed at the State  
15 Department of Education, many examples were found of safety  
16 violations. Some examples include: Emergency doors that were  
17 padlocked or otherwise inoperable; empty fire extinguishers;  
18 emergency door handles missing; missing registration and insurance  
19 cards; seats not bolted down; brake lights inoperable; exhaust  
20 system leaks; stop arms missing or not functioning; first aid kits  
21 missing; emergency brakes not holding; tires worn down to tread  
22 bars; cracked windows; and others.

23 All of the above violations were discovered by the  
24 Nebraska State Patrol after a local mechanic selected by the school  
25 district had already inspected the buses. During April 2001, a  
26 survey of school districts with bus services for their students

1 revealed that of the seventy-seven districts who responded,  
2 seventy-one districts reported having no required qualifications  
3 for the mechanic who inspects their buses. Only six districts had  
4 some kind of qualification. Thus, there is no assurance that the  
5 mechanic who inspects the school buses will find all of the  
6 violations. The mechanics selected by the local school districts  
7 are not necessarily well versed in the state requirements for  
8 safety of school buses.

9           The violations found on school bus inspection reports  
10 filed by the Nebraska State Patrol are serious threats to the  
11 safety of Nebraska students. In order to assure that student  
12 safety is maximized, further study is needed on the question of who  
13 conducts school bus inspections and what qualifications might need  
14 to be required of those who perform the inspections.

15           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE  
16 NINETY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

17           1. That the Transportation and Telecommunications  
18 Committee of the Legislature shall be designated to conduct an  
19 interim study to carry out the purposes of this resolution.

20           2. That the committee shall upon the conclusion of its  
21 study make a report of its findings, together with its  
22 recommendations, to the Legislative Council or Legislature.